

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (new): A reelless hose storage system comprising:

a housing adapted to be mounted below the ground, the housing having an open top and a bottom that facilitates drainage of water from the housing, the housing defining a hollow interior and being sized and shaped to receive and store a spooled hose; and

a water inlet terminating within the housing and adapted to receive an end of the spooled hose.

Claim 11 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 10, further comprising a lid sized and shaped to fit over and substantially cover the open top of the housing.

Claim 12 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 11, wherein, when the housing is mounted below the ground, the lid is substantially coplanar with a surface of the ground.

Claim 13 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 11, wherein the lid is one of hinged and removable.

Claim 14 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 10, wherein the housing defines a secondary cavity that is open to the interior of the housing and within which the water inlet terminates.

Claim 15 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 10, wherein the housing is generally cylindrically shaped and oriented about a vertical axis.

Claim 16 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 15, wherein a diameter of the top of the housing is less than a diameter of the bottom of the housing.

Claim 17 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 10, wherein the housing is sized and shaped to store a flexible hose spooled about a horizontal axis.

Claim 18 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 10, wherein the housing is sized and shaped to store a flexible hose spooled about a vertical axis.

Claim 19 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 10, wherein the water inlet comprises a valve and a pipe having a threaded fitting that facilitates attachment to the spooled hose.

Claim 20 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 10, further comprising a perforated floor that separates the interior of the housing from the ground or other drainage medium.

Claim 21 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 10, further comprising a planter base that is sized and shaped to conform to the open top of the housing.

Claim 22 (new): A reelless hose storage system comprising:

a housing adapted to be mounted below the ground, the housing having an open top and an open bottom, the housing defining a hollow interior and being sized and shaped to store a spooled garden hose;

a water inlet terminating within the housing and adapted to receive an end of the spooled garden hose; and

a hinged lid sized and shaped to fit over and substantially cover the open top of the housing, the lid being substantially coplanar with a surface of the ground when the housing is mounted below the ground and the lid is closed.

Claim 23 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 22, wherein the housing is sized and shaped to store a garden hose spooled about one of a vertical axis and a horizontal axis.

Claim 24 (new): The reelless hose storage system of claim 22, wherein the lid defines an aperture to facilitate moving the lid from a closed position to an open position.

Claim 25 (new): A method of storing a flexible hose utilizing a reelless hose storage system that includes a housing adapted to be mounted below the ground and a water inlet, the housing having an open top and a bottom that facilitates drainage of water from the housing, the housing defining a hollow interior that is sized and shaped to receive the flexible hose in a spooled orientation, the water inlet terminating within the housing and being adapted to receive an end of the flexible hose, the method comprising:

- placing the housing within a correspondingly shaped hole in the ground;
- positioning the housing within the hole in the ground such that the open top of the housing is substantially coplanar with a surface of the ground;
- connecting a water supply to the water inlet;
- connecting an end of the flexible hose to the water inlet;
- placing the flexible hose into the housing in a spooled orientation; and
- placing a cover over the open top of the housing.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 25, further comprising placing a perforated floor between the bottom of the housing and the ground.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 25, wherein the step of placing the flexible hose into the housing comprises placing the flexible hose into the housing in a spooled orientation about a vertical axis.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 25, wherein the step of placing the flexible hose into the housing comprises placing the flexible hose into the housing in a spooled orientation about a horizontal axis.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 25, wherein the cover comprises a lid hingedly connected to the housing and wherein the step of placing a cover over the open top of the housing comprises closing the lid.